

downtown business association. Kalispell, Montana - 406-755-1111 Fax: 406-755-1112

June 13, 2002

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Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Unit  
1925 K Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20423

Re: STB Docket No. AB-6 (Sub-No. 392X)

Dear Sirs:

The March 21, 2002 Federal Register included a notice of exemption from the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway Company for the rail line from Kalispell to Ball's Crossing south of Kalispell. I was extremely pleased to learn that there were no protests to the notice and the exemption became effective on April 20.

Although this rail line once provided service to several shippers, these shippers are no longer active and BNSF has not used the line for many years. The line is now of much greater importance as part of the route of the long-planned U.S. Hwy 93 Kalispell Truck Bypass. The City of Kalispell, and the downtown business association, therefore, support the request by the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) for a public use condition that will provide the time necessary for MDT and BNSF to negotiate the purchase of the right-of-way for use as part of the bypass. As a representative of the downtown business association, I would like to ask your support in getting this job done.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment, and I look forward to following the progress of this important process.

*Bill Goodman*

Bill Goodman

dba.Kalispell

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JUN 27 2002

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Public Record

CC: David A. Galt, Dir. Mont Dept. of Trans.

Patrick Keim, BNSF

Jerry Johnson, BNSF